

HOUSEHOLD

Concerning Hardwood Floors.

A woman who was thinking of having new carpets in the spring was advised by city friends to have hardwood floors put down instead. They said the floors can be laid over the old floor and will cost no more than the carpets. But while I know they are much more cleanly, said the woman, I think it would be a great deal of work to keep them clean and free from dust. A polished hardwood floor shows the dust the same as polished furniture, which we must dust every day. Of course it is best to clean out all dust every day, but a farm housekeeper who cannot afford to hire help cannot dust hardwood floors and stairs every day. The floors are no dustier than the carpets, but the dust doesn't show on the carpets, which look well with a thorough sweeping once a week. The hardwood floors would require some rugs also, and these would need to be cleaned weekly, the same as carpets. We wish some of the readers who have hardwood floors in parlor or living room and dining room, and who do their own work, would write to The Ranch and tell their expense, approximate cost of putting them down, keeping them clean, etc.

The Care of Mattresses.

Mattresses may be kept like new for years if they are systematically turned daily—one day reverse from side to side and the next from top to bottom. This method helps to equalize the pressure upon them of the human body and prevents packing in spots as they do when no attention is paid to mattress turning. It lightens the labor of turning and insures greater variety of pressure if mattresses for double beds are made in sections. Little quilted and washable bed protectors come neatly made and bound. They are inexpensive and should be a part of the furnishing of all beds, but especially for those of children and very old people. They are very easily made at home with a sewing machine. A careful housekeeper, after many years of housekeeping with the same beds and furniture generally will have a nicer house and everything in better condition than an inexperienced, careless one, beginning with everything new and of the best, will have at the end of a very few years of non-care-taking.

Goose Hams.

For some years goose hams have been in demand in some part of Europe and now there is beginning to be a demand for that delectable in America. Goose hams are considered a luxury and they are not dear when we consider the price of geese in most

markets. Goose hams are worth about 30 cents each and each ham weighs about 12 ounces. This would be at the rate of about 40 cents per pound, which is not much out of the way.

These tiny hams are cut and trimmed so as to look like Westphalia hams and are thoroughly cured so that they can be kept anywhere and for a long time. They are lean and can be sliced. It is said by those who have eaten them that they have a delightful taste and that the meat is not hard. The trade is largely among Hebrews, although others take kindly to this kind of meat.

Sausage Seasoning.

An experienced housewife recommends the following recipe for seasoning sausage: One tablespoonful of salt to every two pounds of meat, one tablespoonful of sage to every four pounds of meat, and one tablespoonful of red pepper to every ten pounds of meat.

Every housewife should keep on hand a supply of small brass hooks to be screwed up whenever an extra place is needed for hanging up clothes brushes, scrap holders, etc. Tacks and nails are abominable when driven in walls or woodwork. They are ugly in themselves and always leave shabby holes when removed. Reckless picture hanging can be averted by having picture hooks placed at intervals upon the cornice and left ready for any impromptu wall decorations by thoughtless ones.

It is a mistake to make the clean clothes too wet when sprinkling them for ironing. Many things will iron nicely without any dampening, and it only increases the work of ironing to wet the clothes and then roll them up into hard rolls. Dampen slightly and fold and the work of ironing will be reduced to a minimum.

The thoughtful, practical farmer's wife generally manages to work out a simple plan of living—to make one step do the work of two, to get a "balanced ration" for her family out of simple preparations, to make little decoration be as effective as much, and still be the good housekeeper she ought to be.

Kitchen Hints.

Salt in the oven under the baking-tins will prevent pastry scorching on the bottom.

If it is desired to keep cakes moist put them in a stone jar—if crisp cakes are preferred use tin as a receptacle.

A delightful new sweetmeat is a chocolate-covered fig, that can easily be prepared at home with sweetened chocolate.

Coffee and tea will be found to be greatly improved in flavor if kept in earthenware or china jars, instead of tin boxes.

A spoon should not be left in a saucepan if you wish the contents to cool quickly, since the spoon carries off heat slowly.

Great Value of Vegetables.

There is not a single garden vegetable that has not a medicinal quality aside from its food value. The first thing to come in the spring is asparagus, valuable in all kidney complaints and a most delicious dish. Then we have rhubarb, which counteracts the effect of the usual heavy meat diet of winter and clears the system of some of the acids that produce dyspepsia, rheumatism and other painful maladies. Radishes are good for stomach troubles, dandelion greens make a good blood purifier, horse radish is a tonic and makes the appetite good. Onions cure colds and bring sweet sleep, and celery and lettuce soothe the irritated nerves. Carrots are good for scrofulous tendencies, cucumbers are wholesome and cooling, notwithstanding the bad reputation they have, and parsley is known as a palliative in cases of dropsy. The whole list of vegetables might be named and a positive medicinal value given to each of them. A well-filled garden, the products of which are used regularly in the family, furnishes a variety of medicinal agents which meet the requirements of a large number of people and fortify them against the germs of disease, giving them immunity from attacks that would prostrate them if they were not defended by the use of a rational diet.

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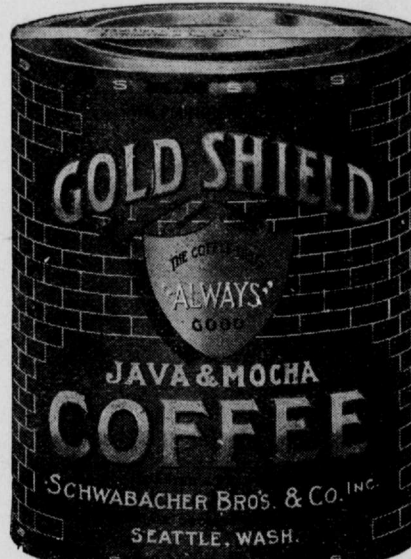
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